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FAIRFAX, VA. (UPI) -- DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR CARLUCCI SAYS THE SPY AGENCY IS PREOCCUPIED TRYING TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF ITS AGENTS AND SOURCES, BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS BECOMING KNOWN AS A NATION THAT CAN'T KEEP SECRETS.

"OUR COUNTRY IS BECOMING KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A COUNTRY THAT CAN'T KEEP SECRETS," CARLUCCI TOLD THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. "WE HAVE PICKED UP ENOUGH INFORMATION TO KNOW THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM" AMONG U.S. ALLIES.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH NOW NUMBERS 2,500 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE CIA, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, THE FBI AND MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED SERVICES, WAS FORMED IN 1975 AT THE HEIGHT OF INVESTIGATIONS AND JOURNALISTIC EXPOSES OF PAST MISDEEDS.

CARLUCCI SAID HIS CHIEF CONCERN NOW IS THE "PROTECTION OF OUR SOURCES AND METHODS."

THE UNITED STATES BEGAN DEVELOPING A REPUTATION AS A NATION THAT COULD NOT KEEP SECRETS IN THE 1970S, BECAUSE OF INFORMATION RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND THROUGH BOOKS BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, HE SAID.

"THERE ARE NO FRIENDLY BOOKS" ABOUT U.S. INTELLIGENCE, HE SAID. "THE BEST INTENTIONED BOOK RAISES A LOT OF EYEBROWS" AMONG U.S. ALLIES.

CARLUCCI SAID CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER URGED HIM TO TELL THE INTELLIGENCE VETERANS "NOT TO TALK TO JOURNALISTS."

AS HE SPOKE, THE PRESS TABLE INCLUDED THE EDITOR OF COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN, WHICH SPECIALIZES IN PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WORKING ABROAD.

"WE SEE NO REASON WHY A GROUP OF MISGUIDED AMERICANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REVEAL IDENTITIES OF OUR PEOPLE OVERSEAS AND DISRUPT THEIR ACTIVITIES," CARLUCCI SAID.